All official Letters to the Department proper must be addressed to the "Secretary of the Treasury," and in replying to Letters from the Department the initials on the upper left hand corner should be referred to.

Treasury Department,

118 I

Washington, D. C., May 5th, 1873

Sir:

I transmit herewith for the consideration of the Light House Board and such action as may be necessary in the premises, a communication addressed to the War Department by E. C. Richardson, President of the Tybee Telegraph Company, requesting the use of a building erected by said Company on Tybee Island, on the Government Reservation, to be used in connection with the Telegraph line, to be allowed to remain subject to any regulations of the War Department; said communication having been referred to this Department, on the 1st instant, by the Honorable

Prof. Joseph Henry,
Chairman Light House Board,
Washington D. C.

the Acting Secretary of War inviting attention
to the endorsement of the Chief of Engineers
of Army in which it is stated that the War
Department has no control over any land
on Sybee Island, but suggesting, as there are
two lights on the island, that the Treasury
Department may have secured title thereto.

Sam,

Very respectfully

Wm. A. Richardson

Secretary

Treasury. Sec. of

May 5th 73.

Tybee Island. rel.
to buildings. to
be erected on. (1)
encl.

May 8/73 Wrote C.E.
Richardson Brest Tybee
Tel Ex - enclosing tracing
of [illegible] Reservation at
Tybee Island. &c.

RICHARDSON & BARNARD,
SAVANNAH, GA.
GENERAL SHIPPING MERCHANTS.

E 118

Savan. 24th March. 73

Maj. Gen. G. D. Townsend
Adj. Gen. U. S. Army.
Washington DC
General.

We have the honor to respectfully state that we are building a telegraph line from Savannah to Tybee Island; that said telegraph is for the purpose of getting marine news, and will be of service to shipping with sickness on board or in distress, as well as a saving to government in its revenue service. Permission was granted by the Light House authorities to erect a small wooden building for the operator, but we have received information from Major P. C. Downey, U. S. Eng.r 6th District, that the site of the building is beyond the land under his control. The building is 20 by 10 feet, and is built about 100 yards from the old tower beyond the Light on Tybee Island. We respectfully request permission to allow the building to remain subject to any regulations you may name, and no injury to government property shall in any way be caused. We supposed the building was on the Light House land or it would not have been built without authority from your Department. To locate it on private land, it will be impossible to observe shipping [illegible]

[illegible] obedient Servant.
[illegible] President Tybee Telegraph Co.

4th Indorsement
Headqrs Dept of the South
New York Apr. 17th 1873
Respectfully forwarded
to Headqrs Division of the
South.

Irwin McDowell

Major General
Commdg

5th Indorsement
Headqrs Division of the South
New York April 17th 1873.
Respectfully forwarded
to Headqrs of the Army

Irwin McDowell

Major General
Commdg

Recd. back also. Apl 19. 73

include this ground in the plan of batteries, and that this plan has not been approved.

This, of course, can be accurately determined in the Chief Engineer's Office, Washington, as also whether the building be upon Light-house ground. Without any official knowledge, or charts on the subject I would say that I think it is on Light House ground. The data I give above will enable the Chief Engineer of the Army to determine the question. The station where it is will be of some advantage to this Post as it can put us in telegraphic communication with Savannah.

Jno. Hamilton
Major 1st Artillery
Commanding Post

F. B. 146.

1853 Ag 1873
Ad Dy 1873
Quarmah Ga
E 47 March 24 1873
R 5 Dec Louisville 1873

ENGINEER DEPT G.R. 1873

E. C. Richardson
President "Tybee Telegraph Co"
1148 H Gen 1873

Requests that a building erected by them on Tybee Island, on Government Reservation, to be used in connection with the Telegraph line, be allowed to remain, subject to any regulations of the War Dept.

W 54 Vol 9 RM

Rec'd H Gen. April 18/73.
Rec'd Dec Louisville 12 April 1873
Rec'd Fort Pulaski Ga

First Endorsement

War Department.
Adjutant General's Office.
Washington, March 29. 1873.

Respectfully referred to the Commanding General Department of the South for report.

To be returned.

By order of the Acting Secretary of War

E. D. Townsend
Adjutant General.

E. B. 11/556.

2. endorsement.

Hdqrs. Dept. of the South
Louisville Ky April 8 73
Respectfully referred to the C. O. Fort Pulaski Ga for report.
To be returned.
By Command of
Maj. Genl. McDowell

J. M. Taylor

3rd. Endorsement.

Headqrs Fort Pulaski
Georgia. April. 8. 1873.

Respectfully returned to Head qrs Deptmt of the South. I have just returned from an inspection of the station and find the building to be as reported by President Richardson. It is a very light structure, indeed, it stands on the comb of the sand hill encircling the island, it is 30 yds N.W. of the centre of the old Martello Tower to the S.S.W. corner of the building. Fort Pulaski bearing due. W. from the telegraph station; directions taking by a Marine compass.

If no claim be gained by the granted permission, the building can not be considered an obstacle as a good team of oxen coned pull it anywhere.

I understand from civilian

3794 WAR DEPARTMENT RECEIVED APR 29 1873

jurisdiction by the State of Georgia

A. A. Humphreys

Bre. Genl & Chief of Engineers

(844 G. R. 1873)

8th Endorsement

War Department.

Adjutant General's Office

Washington. Apl. 28. 1873.

Respectfully submitted to the Acting Secretary of War. with reports from Department of the South. and the Engineer Bureau. which afford all the information in the case known to this Office.

E. B. 12/48.

E. D. Townsend

Adjutant General.

Recd. back a.m. Apl. 26. 73.

117 48 War Department.
Dr May 1. 1873.

Respectfully referred to the Honorable the Secretary of the Treasury, inviting attention to the endorsement of the Chief of Engineers.

Geo W Robeson
Acting Secretary of War.

RM

Sixth Endorsement. 118

War Department.

Adjutant General's Office,
Washington, April 21, 1873.

Respectfully referred to the Chief of Engineers for remark.

E.B. 12/25 E D Townsend
Adjutant General.

Seventh Endorsement

Office of the Chief of Engineers
Washington April 25 1873

Respectfully returned to the Adjutant General

This Dept: has no control over any land on Tybee Island

The martello tower on this island was built in the beginning of the war of 1812 and it is probable the site was not purchased by the United States as

in the course of investigations made in 1842, into the title of the government to lands in Georgia it was ascertained that there was no evidence in the county records of Chatham County, Geo, of any conveyance of the site to the United States

This Dept has since then taken no further action in the matter, but as there are two lights on the island, it is suggested that the Treasury Dept may have secured title before they were erected

As far as known there there has been no cession of